



# The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

# EXCITER

February 2008

Issue No. 443

## LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

## Note from the Editor:

Due to technical difficulties, this edition of the Exciter features a simplified look. For the latest information about club happenings, visit [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org).

## KI4LPW (Powell Elementary) and the 2008 the School Club Round-Up

### Article by Steven K. Jenkins KA8HXX

"CQ School Club Round-Up, CQ School Clup Round-Up, this is N4P, November Four Papa calling CQ and standing by..." It was 9:30am Monday, February 14, 2005. I had set up an HF station at my Son's elementary school and obtained a special event call-sign, N4P, for the one week long School Club Round-Up "contest". Now, on Monday morning, I was surrounded by a class of wide-eyed first graders and a few skeptical teachers wondering what in the world I was saying into the microphone. During that week in February, we made 69 contacts total, while contacting 29 different states, and 29 different schools. More importantly, I introduced Amateur Radio to several hundred elementary students, over 40 teachers and administrators, and demonstrated how Amateur Radio can be used to inspire students and teachers to study math and science.

Over the past three years I have worked with the teachers and administrators of Powell GT Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, NC to develop and establish an Amateur Radio Program. Powell Elementary is a Magnet School. As such, it offers elective classes, or classes in specific areas of study, which students can attend. Students can choose classes in art, math, drama, science, reading, etc. With the help of a teacher, Mrs. Deb Bray, we developed an Amateur Radio elective class for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. This class meets during the regular school day from 3:00pm to 3:45pm Monday through Thursday (four days a week). Currently, we have eight students studying Amateur Radio, and the math and science associated with wireless communications. These eight students may even take the Technician Class exam in the near future.

In the fall of 2005, Powell Elementary School received an Education & Technology Grant from the ARRL. Also known as "The Big Project". This grant provided a complete HF,VHF, and UHF amateur radio station for the school. Just recently, we have completed the installation of the HF vertical antenna on the roof of the school. This completes the installation of all the equipment provided by the ARRL in the original grant.

Powell Elementary School has a club call sign of KI4LPW. We have used this call sign during the last two school years and the current one (2007-2008).

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## RARS Officers

**President:**  
**Selene Montgomery**  
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**Vice-President:**  
**Richard Kelly-Crapse**  
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**Secretary:**  
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**Treasurer:**  
**Greg Seamster**  
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# The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status. The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses. Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS website (RARS.org).



## The Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org). Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.



Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those

of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

**Editor:**  
**Courtney Enzor**  
**KI4HOS**  
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# President's Corner

**Column by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT,  
RARS President**

RARSFEST 2008 is just a little over two months away - April 12, 2008 - a Saturday. This is the largest event on the club calendar. The hamfest committee has been working since September to put all the pieces in place, and their efforts will not be over until after the last treasure has been pulled by the dumpster divers.

If you can give some of your time for setup, the social, hamfest tasks, or teardown, please do so. No job is unimportant. Check out the RARS website for the different positions available. The only way we can be successful is for everyone to do his or her part. Even if you're unable to fill a shift, you can help tremendously just by reminding others of the date and time at every opportunity. The best advertisement out there is by word of mouth.

Hamfests were big revenue producers in the past. That is no longer true of such events now, due to the rising costs of putting on such an event. However, the social aspect of hamfests has not diminished. It is a time to come together to celebrate a hobby we all enjoy, to meet old friends, to make new ones, and to learn about aspects of the hobby we may not be aware of.

Please circle April 12 on your calendar and make plans to attend RARSFEST 2008. With the help of all, success will be achieved.

## RARS General Meeting

**Date:** First Tuesday of each month

**Location:** Forest Hills Baptist Church  
201 Dixie Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27607

**Time:** People begin arriving at 7 pm.  
The meeting officially starts  
at 7:30 pm.

## RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

## RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

## VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for more information.



## December 2007 RARS Net Reports

• Checkins: 340      Special Interest Nets:  
 • Traffic: 20/16      Checkins: 90  
 • Minutes: 549      Minutes: 650  
 • Sessions: 31      Sessions: 15

## February Birthdays

Danny	KD4RAA	2/02
LOS	AF0AA	2/03
Selene	KG4RMT	2/03
Lillian	KC4AYH	2/04
Bill	WIREP	2/05
Art	W2JNW	2/06
Bill	KN4IX	2/08
Carl	KU4HM	2/09
Harriette	KF4SER	2/10
Dave	K4DMB	2/10
Buddy	KD4PCD	2/10
Jim	K4HCG	2/12
Dennis	K4DAM	2/13
Mike	K1MW	2/14
John	KG4SWI	2/15
James	KB2IYS	2/16
Don	NJ2E	2/18
Howard	K3EPN	2/19
John	KB4IP	2/21
Joe	N1LVN	2/21
Joe	W4TTO	2/25
John	W1JVN	2/25
Nancy Christopher		2/26
Bob	WX4MMM	2/26
Tom	WA4OTA	2/27
Hans	W2UF	2/27
Mary	KG4OQA	2/28

## SKYWARN Updates

Central Carolina SKYWARN will host a SKYWARN Spotter Dinner on Wednesday, March 26, from 6:30-8PM at the Golden Corral Restaurant at 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. State Climatologist Dr. Ryan Boyles will be the guest speaker. His topic will be "Climate Change and What that Means for North Carolina." The dinner will start at 6:30PM; the program around 7:15PM. All spotters and weather enthusiasts are invited to attend!

Upcoming SKYWARN Net Programs:  
 February 12 - "Drought Update" with Raleigh NWS Hydrologist Mike Moneypenny.  
 February 19 - "Weather Manipulation" with Raleigh NWS Lead Forecaster Ron Humble.  
 For more information, visit [www.ccskywarn.net](http://www.ccskywarn.net).

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Powell Elementary School will participate in the up coming School Club Round-Up contest February 11 through 15, 2008. This is a week long "contest" to get schools on the air, expose kids and teachers to Amateur Radio, and it is a great chance for you to get on the air and talk to some kids.

The school day at Powell is from 9:15am to 3:45pm. During the week of the School Club Round-Up, we will monitor the RARS 146.64 repeater from 9:30am to 3:45pm. We will be operating on the HF bands most of the week as well. If you are around during the school day the week of February 11-18, give KI4LPW a call on the 146.64 machine and you might be able to talk to some of the students at Powell. Or, if you want to have even more fun, and make the day memorable for several students and teachers, get on the HF bands and talk to some schools across the country. You most likely will talk to a future Ham.

### About the Author

Steve is an Amateur Extra class license holder first licensed near Cleveland, Ohio in February, 1980. Steve is employed as an electrical engineer in Research Triangle Park, is a father of three kids that attend Powell Elementary, and is a very active parent volunteer at Powell GT Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, NC.

## Welcome to RARS!

Donald Herring	No License
Steve Kroeger	KI4YXJ
Nancy Christopher	No License
Michael Christopher	W2IW

## FOR SALE

### GAP TITAN DX VERTICAL ANTENNA

This antenna will be sold to some lucky RARS member through an auction on the RARS web site. RARS member Jack Scheinuk, W5WSF, donated the antenna to the club. Jack recently moved into the area from Louisiana where he said he had great results with this antenna, but at his QTH here in Raleigh he needed a better ground system. He now is using another vertical but had to install 64 ground radials.

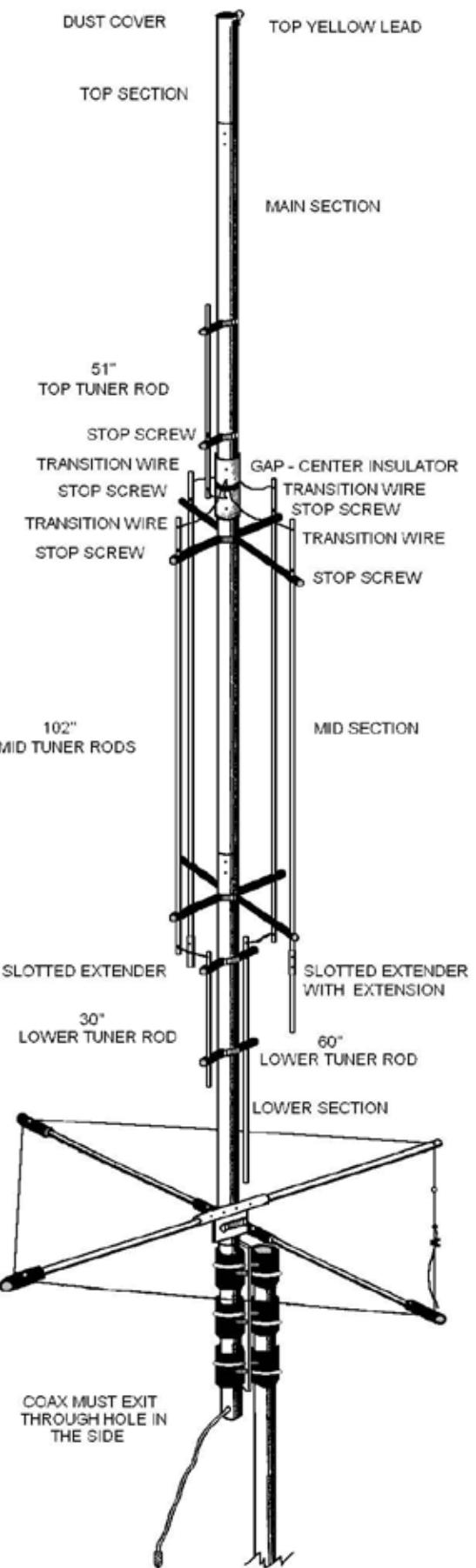
The GAP antenna was taken down with only enough disassembly to make it transportable and it should be easy to reassemble. In its current condition there are 2 large assemblies, a handful of loose parts, and the 14 page instruction manual. The loose parts include the cross pieces near the mount, the top tuner rod, and some smaller parts.

Complete information including the 14 page instruction manual are downloadable from the GAP website at <http://www.gapantenna.com/titan.html>

The manufacturer's web site shows a price of \$399 for this antenna. It has many good reviews on the eHam web site as well as a few bad reviews – mostly regarding difficulty in tuning the antenna. Used prices on eHam mostly range from \$150 - \$300.

**NOTE:** Without further disassembly the structure currently has a length of about 17'. If the buyer can not transport that length it will need further disassembly.

For more information contact Hank Montgomery, K4HM, via email at [k4hm@arrl.net](mailto:k4hm@arrl.net) or via phone at 577-1254.



## **Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for November 2007**

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on November 20, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA and Dick Orander KD4ISC.

President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and a second from Chuck K4HF, the minutes for the October meeting were approved as presented.

### **Officers' Reports**

President's report – Selene KG4RMT advised she would make comments as appropriate throughout the meeting.

Vice President's report – Rick KB4TKQ stated the Encore Singers would be back for our December general meeting program. Rick also wants to talk with Neal Fisher N4HAF (Field Day Chair) about alternative Field Day site plans. These sites are more centrally located to Raleigh.

Treasurer's report – Greg KE4PAX advised there were 226 RARS members. He is also following up on reimbursements for youth taking their ham radio exams.

### **Committee Reports**

Education – Selene advised on behalf of Virginia Enzor NC4VA that textbooks were made available to Scouts during a recent technician class. None were used.

Net Manager – Mary KG4OQA reported that all is going well with the nets.

Webmaster – Hank K4HM advised he continues coordinating updates with Steve Worley KB4HDQ. Greg KE4PAX asked if there had been any discussion about adding the commercial link, 'callsigndepot.com', to our website. Several Board members have received an email asking that we add the link to our website. After a brief discussion, no decision was made to add or refuse to add the link to our webpage.

VE Team – Selene KG4RMT advised the Board on recent concerns of a former RARS member who wished to participate as part of the exam team.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC reported on the recent ham participation at the Raleigh City of Oaks Marathon. This should finish up the 2007 public service season. Greg KE4PAX briefly reviewed our insurance liability coverage for such events and other club activities.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM announced that the 2008 RARSfest date has changed to Saturday, April 12. Everyone is encouraged to get the word out about the change in date. Gary KN4AQ will work to update future SERA Journal advertising. The next hamfest committee meeting will be held after the holidays at a date and location that will be determined at a later time.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF reported that the ARRL has approved our new hamfest date for the State Convention meeting. The change in our special event callsign during RARSfest has also been applied for.

FM Repeater – Gary KN4AQ reported on the borrowed D-Star repeater that is set up on the RARS UHF tower. This temporary configuration is expected to be available through January while the RARS UHF repeater is undergoing factory recall repairs and upgrades. The 145.13 repeater will be brought down for a recall repair. Gary anticipates requesting the funds for a filter to place on this equipment when it is returned to service.

#### Old Business

Selene KG4RMT reported that she made contact with the family who offered to donate items from a ham's estate. A few things have been picked up and will be placed for sale on the RARS table.

#### New Business

Gary made a motion that the December Board meeting be cancelled due to the busy holiday schedules of the membership. Rick KB4TKQ provided a second and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

There was concern expressed over conducting the January meeting on its scheduled January 1 date. After a brief discussion, Chuck K4HF made a motion to move the January general meeting to January 8 (pending approval of the church). If the church is not available, the January meeting will be cancelled. A second was provided by Greg KE4PAX and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

Selene KG4RMT has been notified by a local ham of the desire to donate a Gap Titan antenna to the club. Selene and Greg KE4PAX have put together the necessary forms for the donation and the antenna will be picked up after the holidays.

#### General Comments

Greg KE4PAX provided some general comments on the club's taxes and about the recent work he has done with them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.  
Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC  
Secretary

## Minutes of the RARS January 8, 2008 Meeting

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail. Members and guests arrived early to share refreshments and fellowship.

President Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished us all a Happy New Year.

We were honored to have Debra Owen and Donald Herring and his father as visitors to our meeting.

President Selene than asked if there were any additions or corrections to the December minutes. There being none, the minutes will stand as written.

Our treasurer, Greg Seamster, KE4PAX then gave a treasurer's report. RARS currently has 229 members. Our assets total \$39,275. Our 07/08 budget year is currently at a minus \$1,191 but should improve after the RARSfest.

President Selene made the following announcements:

- There will be no RARS supper this month as the Board meeting will take place next Tuesday, January 15. The meeting will take place at Forest Hills Baptist Church. All are welcome.
- VE testing will be administered at our February meeting.
- The program for our February meeting will be a presentation by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ about D-STAR.
- After the meeting, members are invited to go to supper as a group.
- RARSFest is scheduled for Saturday, April 12. Please note that this is a change in that we have in the past had the fest on a Sunday. Also, much help is needed and volunteers are asked to go to our web page and sign up to help. Preliminary flyers were available at the meeting.
- All members were encouraged to keep up with the events going on in RARS. Our web page, the Exciter and nets are excellent places to get info.
- The 2006 USA ARDF (Fox Hunt) Championship video is available for loan to members. This video was given to RARS by Gary, KN4AQ.
- The hamfest season is upon us. First Fest, located in Winston-Salem will be January 12 as well as the Greenwood, SC fest. The Richmond Frost Fest will be February 2 and will be located at the Richmond Raceway Complex.
- The Exciter editor's deadline is the Monday prior to the Board meeting. The Board meeting is normally the 3rd Monday of the month.

Hamfest chairman, Hank Montgomery, K4HM then made a report on the RARSFest. The new date is Saturday, April 12. Preliminary flyers are available. The final flyers are still at the printers. Hank indicated that a recent trend in hamfests is to have a "youth lounge". Children under age 16 are admitted free. Please encourage any children that you know to attend. The web page has provisions for people to sign up to help with the RARSFest. So far, there are no conflicts with other hamfests on our date. We were reminded of the workers party and encouraged to volunteer to help.

There being no other committee reports, we held the door prize drawing. The first winner was William Kelly-Crapse (age 3) who won Emergency Power. The second winner was Sam Jenkins, KI4TRG who won BackYard Antennas.

Vice-President Rick Kelly-Crapse, KB4TQK then introduced our program as "meet and greet". Using a portable mic, he went to everyone attending the meeting and had them make a few comments about themselves and ham radio. There were many varied and interesting stories. The earliest license was issued in 1947 and the most recent was just a few weeks ago. Donald Herring had his father's 1961 2nd class radio license. Everyone present seemed to enjoy the program.

President Selene adjourned the meeting at 8:47 with the reminder of the next meeting will be February 5.

Charles Swindell, WB4DCM  
Secretary



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.



# Amateur Radio Nets

The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to [www.voipwx.net](http://www.voipwx.net).

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit [www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net).

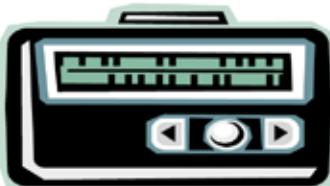


**CAROLINA 440  
UHF Link System**  
[www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net)

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) net** on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

### Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at [www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net](http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net).

See page 4 for information about upcoming SKYWARN nets and our SKYWARN dinner.



**The Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter Net** meets at 9 pm Sunday evenings on the 146.64 repeater (temporarily). All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

MERCURY  
AMATEUR  
RADIO  
ASSOCIATION

# MARA

The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. [www.wakeares.org](http://www.wakeares.org).



Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.  
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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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RALEIGH, NC  
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## RARSFest 2008

Mark your calendars and spread the word! The 36th annual  
RARSFest will be held on Saturday, April 12th.  
That's right – a Saturday hamfest!

Tickets are available NOW! Get them early!

For more information, visit [www.rars.org/hamfest/](http://www.rars.org/hamfest/).